

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00587 060901Z  
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DOE-11 ACDA-12 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-02 NSC-05  
SOE-02 SS-15 PA-02 USIA-15 /102 W  
-----123767 061054Z /17

R 060825Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4872  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS PRAGUE 0587

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PROP, TSPA, CZ  
SUBJ: SOYUZ - 28 CARRIES CZECH COSMONAUT

1. THE LONG-RUMORED ORBITING OF A CZECHOSLOVAK COSMONAUT HAS AT LAST TAKEN PLACE, BUT THE WAY THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE WERE GIVEN THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT COULD HAVE BEEN DIRECTED BY THE GOOD SOLDIER SHVEJK. LOCAL PRESS SERVICE STRINGERS WERE ALERTED TO TURN ON THEIR TVS AT 5 P.M. AND PASSED THE WORD TO US. AT 5:00 THE INTER-VISION SLIDE CAME ON AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER THE ANNOUNCER TOLD US THAT IN A FEW MINUTES WE WOULD BE TAKEN TO THE BAIKONUR COSMODROME. AFTER SEVERAL MINUTES OF INTERVISION SLIDE AND SECOND-RATE SOVIET MUSIC SHE REAPPEARED TO REPEAT THE MESSAGE. LATER SHE CAME ON AGAIN TO ADMIT THERE WOULD BE A 15-20 MINUTE DELAY. BY 6:00 EVEN CZECH TV OFFICIALS REALIZED THAT THEY MIGHT BE LOSING THEIR AUDIENCE AND PUT ON TAPES  
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OF A MILITARY ORCHESTRA, WHICH AT 6:15 WAS REPLACED BY A SLIDE OF THE KREMLIN AND SEVERAL MINUTES LATER A NEWSCASTER APPEARED TO READ THE OFFICIAL SOVIET COMMUNIQUE ON THE LAUNCH. ONLY LATER DID SCENES OF THE LAUNCH APPEAR. EVERYTHING SUGGESTED THAT IT WAS EASIER TO LAUNCH TWO COSMONAUTS THAN TO MAKE AN INTER-VISION LINK-UP. MEANWHILE RADIO MOSCOW HAD BEEN

BROADCASTING HERE FULL DETAILS OF THE MISSION FROM  
ABOUT 5:00 ON.

2. MARCH 3 PRESS HAS, OF COURSE, GONE WILD, WHILE  
NEVER FORGETTING TO GIVE SOVIETS TOP BILLING. RUDE  
PRAVO ASSERTS THAT NAME OF COSMONAUT REMEK WILL GO  
DOWN IN HISTORY WITH THOSE OF YURI GARGARIN AND JOHN  
GLENN AS FIRST EARTH ORBITERS FROM A COUNTRY. IT ALSO  
NOTES, STRAINING A BIT, THAT IN HUNGARIAN REMEK MEANS  
MASTERFUL OR CLASSIC.

3. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT PEOPLE OF PRAGUE ARE VIEW-  
ING THIS EVENT MAINLY WITH AN ACCUSTOMED CYNICISM. WE  
HAVE SO FAR SEEN FEW SIGNS OF SPECIAL PRIDE OR EVEN  
SPECIAL INTEREST. STORY IS ALREADY CIRCULATING THAT  
A SLOVAK WAS THE FIRST CHOICE FOR THE FIRST COSMONAUT  
FROM THIS COUNTRY, BUT THAT A CZECH WAS SUBSTITUTED  
FOR REASONS OF POLITICAL BALANCE. WHATEVER THE TRUTH  
IN THAT, WE FIND IT INTERESTING THAT SLOVAK PARTY CHIEF  
(AND CPCZ PRESIDUM MEMBER) JOZEF LENART WAS CHOSEN TO  
BE THE SENIOR OFFICIAL ATTENDING THE LAUNCH.  
FROWICK

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SPACE PROGRAMS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978PRAGUE00587  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780100-0600  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3106201  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOYUZ - 28 CARRIES CZECH COSMONAUT  
**TAGS:** PROP, TSPA, CZ  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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